

CUSTOMER NO.
34456

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

- 21 (New) A method of processing a call from an inmate facility, the method comprising:
- receiving a call and a number to call from an inmate facility at an inmate platform;
 - generating a query from the inmate platform to an external line information database (LIDB) platform to determine a blocking status signal for the number to determine a blocking status of a called party;
 - processing the blocking status signal and further comprising:
 - when the status blocking signal indicates a non-blocked condition, transferring control from the inmate platform to an operator services platform and using the operator services platform to prompt the called party to determine whether charges for the collect call are accepted, to prompt for a billing type for the charges, and to connect the collect call from the inmate facility to the called party when the charges for the collect call are accepted by the called party; and
 - when the blocking status signal indicates a blocked condition, using the inmate platform to prompt the called party to determine whether charges for the collect call are accepted and when the charges are accepted to further receive third party billing information to provide for payment of the accepted charges and to connect the call from the inmate facility to the

called party when the third party billing information is validated for payment of the accepted charges.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the third party information includes credit card information.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the third party information includes pre-paid telephone card information.

24. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the billing type includes standard collect call billing to the called party telephone bill.

25. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the collect call is billed to a party that is not associated with the number.

26. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the charges for the collect call are not approved and wherein the operator services platform notifies the called party as to one or more reasons why the results of the billing approval process are negative.

27. (New) The method claim 21, wherein the inmate platform query is received by the LIDB through a central office facility.

28. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the charges for the collect call are not approved because a party that is a receiving party of the call does not have the authority to accept the billing for the collect call.

29. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the status blocking signal indicates a blocked condition in response to selective blocking having been requested by the called party and wherein the collect call is connected for communication after the called party provides validated credit card information in response to receiving the collect call request from the inmate facility.

30. (New) A system of processing a call from an inmate facility, the system comprising:
an input to receive a call and a dialed number from an inmate facility;

a query generation element to generate a query from an inmate platform to a line
information database (LIDB) platform to determine a blocking status signal to
determine a blocking status of a called destination corresponding to the dialed
number; and

a processor to process the blocking status signal such that when the status blocking signal
indicates a non-blocked condition, control is transferred from the inmate platform
to an operator services platform and the operator services platform prompts the
called destination to determine whether charges for the collect call are accepted,
prompts for a billing type for the charges, and connects the collect call from the
inmate facility to the called destination when the charges for the collect call are
accepted by the called party, and when the blocking status signal indicates a
blocked condition, the inmate platform prompts the called destination to
determine whether charges for the collect call are accepted, and when the charges
are accepted receives third party billing information to provide for payment of the
accepted charges and connects the call from the inmate facility to the called
destination when the third party billing information is validated for payment of
the accepted charges.

31. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the third party information includes credit
card information

32. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the third party information includes pre-paid
telephone card information.

33. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the billing type includes standard collect call
billing to the called party telephone bill.

34. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the collect call is billed to a party that is not
associated with the dialed number.

35. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the charges for the collect call are not approved and wherein the operator services platform notifies the called destination as to one or more reasons why the results of the billing approval process are negative.

36. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the inmate platform query is sent to the LIDB through a central office facility.

37. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the charges for the collect call are not approved because a party that is a receiving party of the call does not have the authority to accept the billing for the collect call.

38. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the status blocking signal indicates a blocked condition in response to selective blocking having been requested by the called destination and wherein the collect call is connected for communication after the called destination provides validated credit card information in response to receiving a collect call request from the inmate facility.

39. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein a credit card is billed for payment of the accepted charges.

40. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the call is connected over a public telephony network.